

WHITE CHARCOAL

White charcoal is made by charring the wood at a relatively low temperature for some time, then, near the end of the process, raising the kiln temperature to about 1000 degree Celsius to make the wood red-hot. The charcoal is then pulled out and quickly smothered with a covering of powder to cool it. The powder is a moist mixture of earth, sand and ash, and gives a whitish hue to the charcoal surface.

Charcoal cont.

- ▣ Like other charcoals, white charcoal is a soft medium that is easily smudged and blended with a variety of tools and materials.
 - If used by itself choose a darker paper to work with
 - If use in combination with other charcoals, it works well for highlights or reflections

Blending: tools, techniques, etc.

- ▣ Tortillons: These are wound paper sticks with a point at one end.
 - Best suited for blending and smoothing out small areas
- ▣ Stumps: Although these resemble tortillons, they are significantly different.
 - More tightly wrapped than tortillons with points at both ends
 - Available in several diameters
 - Useful for blending larger areas
- ▣ Paper: Wrap a small piece of paper around a finger or two and blend.
 - Use for larger areas such as a background
 - Brings out the texture of the drawing paper itself

Blending cont...

- ▣ Tissues and paper towels: Facial tissues without lotion or dye and paper towels that are softer work best.
 - Fold a tissue into a small square and use the corner to get into smaller areas
 - Effective for lighting areas
 - Works well for smoothing out unwanted directional lines
 - Can disintegrate quickly

Blending cont...

- ▣ Chamois: is a soft suede leather made from the skin of sheep.
 - Use a clean dry chamois when blending
 - Works well for blending smooth textures such as skin tones and reflective surfaces such as glass and metal
 - Use it to lighten large masses of dark charcoal or graphite
- ▣ Felt: or craft felt cut down in little squares for easier handling.
 - When blending tiny dashes / dots disperse in the direction you move the felt
 - Circular blending produces a bumpy look that can be used to simulate the texture of irregular surfaces

Blending cont...

- ▣ Brushes: Paintbrushes can make a variety of textures. Small watercolor brushes are great for small spaces while larger brushes are great for blending and evening out strokes.
 - Blending with a brush will alter the drawing the least
 - Best used with powdered charcoals to blend
 - A stiff fan brush works to replicate the texture of clothing

Erasing Tips

- ▣ Mistakes are unavoidable sometimes... but don't panic. Panic erasing is when you eliminate a drawing mishap according to your emotions rather than your intellect.
- ▣ Draw lightly – it will make it easier for you when you need to erase.
- ▣ Use a light touch erasing... it may take longer but you will have an easier time protecting your paper.
- ▣ Use an erasing shield: a thin metal like stencil that will help shield your drawing as you erase.

To Erase or Not to Erase

- ▣ Remember the nature and purpose of the drawing
- ▣ Consider the size of the mistake
- ▣ Take note of the visual weight
- ▣ Easy does it... think of your eraser as a drawing tool as well
- ▣ Sometimes it's better to just move on

The Good, Bad, and Ugly

Your skill with an eraser is just as important as your ability to use a pencil. However there are many other factors that determine the quality of your erasers, such as:

- 1.) The medium you are using
- 2.) It's lightness or darkness
- 3.) It's degree of hardness
- 4.) The amount of pressure you used when drawing
- 5.) The type of paper you are working with

Erasers

- ▣ Vinyl Eraser: (Mars Plastic, Magic Rub, Black Pearl)
 - Fairly soft and therefore not abrasive and smudgy
- ▣ Kneaded Eraser: made of soft pliable material.
 - Used primarily for lightening line or shaded area by pushing or lifting the pigment off of the surface of your paper
- ▣ Gum Eraser: made of soft but firm and somewhat crumbly material.
 - Excellent for cleaning up the white areas with in and around your drawing that have become smudgy
- ▣ Hard Eraser: (Pink) most commonly used.
 - Useful for correcting those deeper and darker hard to remove mistakes in charcoal as well as colored pencil
- ▣ Ink Eraser: removes ink.
 - Eraser you won't want to use because it is too harsh for art papers

White Charcoal Drawing Unit

- ▣ Day 1: On a piece of black paper, practice using all blenders as well as all erasers. Your practice sheet should include the following:
 - Draw a thick bold white charcoal line on each side of the piece of paper.
 - On one side demonstrate the use of at least 5/7 blender tools and on the other side demonstrate the use of 4/5 different types of erasers.
 - For full credit – Label all experiments!
 - Turn in with your worksheet about blenders and erasers.

White Charcoal Drawing

- ▣ Day 2: Practice drawing glass bottles and containers.
- ▣ Days 3-7: Final drawing of glass bottles / containers showing reflections.
 - A min. of 3 forms must be visible in the final drawing.
 - Accurately represent the forms you choose to draw.
 - Look closely at all details within all forms.
 - Use erasers and blending tools for the “smudge smear” technique.
 - Use all time wisely and stay in assigned seat.